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Raleigh, N. C.

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*To Correspondents:*

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C., MAY 22, 1888.

[This paper entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in Raleigh, N. C.]

The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' Association and N. C. State Farmers' Alliance.

In writing to this office to change the address of a paper, our subscribers will do us a favor by stating the office at which the paper is received, as well as the one to which it is desired to be sent. Failure to do this puts us to a great deal of trouble and the necessity of going through a long list of names, involving not only much work, but much loss of time, when time is valuable.

Is there a Cross Mark on the margin of your paper? We adopt this as the simplest and easiest method of informing our patrons that their terms of subscription have expired, and that the paper will be stopped if we do not hear from you. So if you see the Cross Mark, let us hear from you.

Again we want to say to our correspondents that they *must* give us their real names if they expect us to publish their articles. We must have their names as a guarantee of good faith. And again, we must ask our friends—all to condense what they have to say—boil it down. We are anxious to give as great variety as possible to our readers, and to do this the articles should be *short and to the point*.

We regret to learn that unfair methods are being practiced in certain counties in this State to secure the nomination of such delegates as favor certain candidates. In one county the delegates are instructed to vote in the State Convention for a certain candidate, and it was so palpably unjust to the real wish and sentiment of the people that some of the delegates appointed declined to serve. In Shelby, the *Aurora* says, that out of the 700 votes in the township, only 300 who live in the town are represented on the list of 18 delegates to the County Convention; that the 400 or more who do not live in the town have not a single delegate on the list. The *Aurora* talks boldly and with its mouth wide open, in denouncing this outrage. We learn that in one of the adjoining counties the false statement is being innuently circulated that Capt. Alexander did all in his power in the last legislature to prevent the establishment of a Railroad Commission. Do our friends wish and intend to make that an issue before the people in the coming campaign? Are we to know how the different candidates stand on this question when they are nominated and when they come before us for our votes? We would most gladly welcome the issue. If any are curious to know the record of Capt. Alexander on this question, they have only to turn to page 552, *Senate Journal*, session of 1887, and read the vote. He has nothing to conceal.

choice of their candidates. We will do it without regard to its effect on candidates or parties. This thing has been endured long enough in North Carolina, and it must and will be stopped. So far as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is concerned it intends to do all in its power, "without fear, favor or affection," to put a check on the dictatorial and domineering and presumptuous interference of small fry politicians, with the legitimate rights of the people. They shall have a fair showing in these columns for exposing such outrages.

A correspondent of the *News and Observer* of the 13th inst., signing himself an "Alumnus" of the University, and commenting on the condition of our University, uses some rough, illiberal and indiscreet language. He is particularly severe on the legislature for transferring the Land-scrip Fund from the University to the Agricultural and Mechanical College, and characterizes it as "the very illiberal act of the legislature." He says: "Public feeling should have been aroused. What! Deprive the University of one-third of its income and not a word said?" We earnestly hoped, for obvious reasons, that this question would be allowed to rest. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER took an active and prominent part in securing that transfer. It was supported by a large proportion of the people and tax-payers of the State. They resorted to no parliamentary legerdemain to procure the enactment of the law. They were prompted by no hostility to the University, but they acted openly and manfully. Those who voted for it in the legislature were not, as "Alumnus" charges, "demagogues" and "ax-grinders," but they were honorable and patriotic North Carolinians. They were not the enemies of the University, but they were the friends of justice. As a friend to the University and wishing to see it prosper and advance to the highest rank among the institutions of learning, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER would kindly admonish the especial champions of the University in their zeal and advocacy of the claims of that institution to temper their language and their efforts with discretion and moderation. And above all, they will act wisely, if they abstain from any attempt to divert that fund from the Agricultural College, and also from imputing improper and unpatriotic motives to those who were instrumental in the transfer of that fund. They were friends of the University and are to-day, and they know they did right. Again, we respectfully suggest to the zealous friends of the University not to drag up this question again for discussion. It would be wise to let it rest.

The articles in this paper some weeks ago in regard to Lucerne attracted wide-spread attention. We have received a number of letters in regard to it, enquiring as to methods of planting, cultivation, &c. Some of these letters are from subscribers in Texas, Missouri, Georgia and Louisiana. The season for planting Lucerne had passed before arrangements could have been made after the appearance of the articles, but we will have a full and thorough exposition of the subject for our readers before the time arrives for planting, and it will be from the pen of a thoroughly practical man, who has succeeded splendidly with it. We will give all particulars so that any one who may desire to try it, will have a safe guide.

This Association was organized on the evening of the 15th by the election of the following officers: President, Capt. S. B. Alexander, of Charlotte; 1st Vice-President, Capt. B. P. Williamson, of Raleigh; 2d Vice-President, J. W. Bethel, of Byrdsville, Va.; Secretary, W. P. Batchelor, of Raleigh; Treasurer, Dr. James McKee, of Raleigh. Executive Committee: Officers elected and Wm. Byrnes, of Alamance county, Frank K. Borden, of Goldsboro, Bennahan Cameron, of Orange county, W. P. Montgomery, of Franklin, W. H. Whitehead, of Battleboro, and R. B. Raney, of Raleigh. The association organized with twenty-five members, and it is expected the number will be increased to at least one hundred by the next meeting.

Four years ago a few progressive and public-spirited citizens of this city conceived the idea of having an annual Cattle Show to be confined to stock in this county. It has succeeded and prospered. On the 15th all Raleigh and the surrounding country were here and many visitors from a distance. The display of cattle and horses was superb, and every body was delighted. We greatly regret that our notes of the Fair are crowded out of this issue but they will appear next week.

At 12 o'clock, on the 19th, the Wake County Democratic Convention was called to order by the newly-elected Chairman of the County Executive Committee, Mr. A. D. Jones.

On motion of Mr. S. Otho Wilson, Mr. R. H. Battle was elected, unanimously, President of the Convention.

The Convention was a full one, every township being well represented, and the deepest interest was manifested throughout. Perfect good feeling characterized the proceedings.

Delegates were chosen to the Congressional and State Conventions.

We were not able to get the precise vote as to Governor, but it stands about two-thirds for Alexander, and one-third for Judge Fowle.

The following telegrams were received at the office of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER on Saturday evening last:

"The Cabarrus county Democratic convention held in Concord to-day enthusiastically endorsed Alexander for Governor, without a dissenting voice."

"The Democratic Convention for Anson county met to-day. They will probably stand Alexander 9, Steadman 4."

"Union county sends a solid delegation for Alexander. A resolution was passed declaring that it was the sense of the convention that S. B. Alexander is the choice of Union county for Governor. A resolution was also passed that the majority rule prevail, and that the vote of the county be cast as a unit."

"Mecklenburg county is unanimous for Alexander, of course."

"The Warren county convention to-day went solid for Alexander for Governor."

"The Rowan delegation goes to Raleigh uninstructed but is largely for Alexander."

Again we warn our farmer friends to be on their guard and "watch the professors" in all primary meetings as well as in the conventions. If you are not exceedingly vigilant and on the constant lookout the wire-pullers and political managers will capture the meetings by some trick and thus defeat the will of the majority. The following from the Shelby *Aurora* of last week, relates how the people were throttled in that town on Saturday the 12th inst :

day, a crowd assembled at the Shelby court house. Capt. J. W. Gidney moved that Mayor W. L. Dameron be chairman and the editors of *Aurora* and *New Era* act as Secretaries. C. Mills Lattimore, at the gentle suggestion of Capt. J. W. Gidney, moved that the chairman appoint eighteen delegates to the county convention. This was carried and the chairman, who is a Stedman man, appointed at a rapid rate, eighteen town men all for Stedman. This action was ratified, about twenty voting in a crowd of sixty and no one opposing. There were some country men present but *not one* was appointed by the chairman. Then upon motion the chairman and secretaries were added to the list.

At our municipal election this year 300 votes were cast, yet the township strength exceeds now seven hundred. Of this 400 are in the country. So in this township 400 are unrepresented and the rights of the farmers are apparently ignored by the town people. Perhaps this may suit some, but the *Aurora* thinks country people have rights as well as those who live in town. Give both sides a fair representation if you want the Democratic party to win. We think there was perhaps no intention to do injustice to the country but this idea will not be accepted by those thus ignored. A countryman has rights and "don't you forget it." A loaded gun often rebounds and the breech does more harm sometimes to the hunter than to the birds.

There are about one hundred Alliances organized in South Carolina and we learn that the State Alliance will be organized at Florence, South Carolina, on Wednesday, the 11th day of July. The editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is invited and hoped to be present on that occasion. Bro. T. W. Kendall and other Deputy Organizers are doing good work in that State.

The *Monroe Enquirer and Express* so ably and fearlessly edited by W. J. Boylin, Esq., and which has always been unswervingly true to the best interests of its party, in its issue of the 17th inst., comes out squarely in favor of Capt. S. B. Alexander for the next Governor of North Carolina. After announcing the well-known fact that Hon. T. J. Jarvis was its choice so long as there was hope of his accepting the nomination, the *Enquirer and Express* says:

"Admitting the fact that the name of Jarvis is no longer to be considered in this connection, the duty of selecting some other man who can lead the Democratic hosts to a triumphant victory rests upon the patriotic citizens of North Carolina. We need a man whose record is spotless; a man upon whom no shadow of suspicion rests; a man whose hands have never been soiled by corruption. If we are wise we will select a man who is in sympathy with the masses of the people, and who is at the same time qualified by nature and training, to make a vigorous and successful canvass, and after his election, to fill the exalted position to which he has been called in a dignified and creditable manner."

counted almost solid for Steadman, the delegates to the State Convention were uninstructed. In almost every county in the State, Alexander has a strong following, and as an evidence of the esteem in which he is held at home, his own county, the grand old county of Mecklenburg will send to Raleigh a solid delegation for him. In proof of the fact that his worth and popularity are recognized and feared by the friends of other candidates, we find them, while demanding the selection of Fowle or Steadman for the first place, endorsing Alexander for the second place on the ticket.

Now, in conclusion, Capt. Alexander is a representative of the agricultural interests, and he is a representative of whom the farmers of North Carolina may well be proud. He has made a successful farmer, and has demonstrated his ability as a statesman in time and again in the Senate chamber. The farmers demand his nomination in recognition of the importance of their interests, and pledge themselves to work for his election, and we honestly believe that he can sweep the State like a tidal wave.

The farmers do not ask us to nominate an objectionable man, but they bring forward one whose integrity cannot be doubted and demand that his claims be considered. Can the Democratic party afford to ignore that demand?

**EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER** :—The Alliance has been in working order long enough, I think, to begin to benefit those who belong to it. It has, it is true, brought down the price of fertilizers considerably, but now we want it to bring down the price of other articles, and I think the best way to do this is to establish trade houses in each county. I think it is the duty of each Alliance to instruct its delegates to take this matter in hand at the July meetings of the County Alliances. Let each County Alliance appoint a committee to wait on the merchants and receive bids and establish one or more trade houses in each county, issue trade cards so any Alliance man can be recognized and get his goods at a per cent. lower. Then we will have greater inducements to offer those who are standing aloof, waiting for something to be accomplished; for, no matter how distasteful it may seem, there are men in each neighborhood who will "wait and see." Now let each Alliance instruct its delegates to take steps in this direction and have the trade houses established for our fall cash trade. This plan is being worked to advantage in other States, and why can't it be done in this? Sec'y 285.

and we are glad to see that Alliance men are thinking about this important matter. Let the County Alliances consider these questions carefully and be prepared to make known their views and plans to the State Alliance, which meets in August next, as, doubtless, this body will adopt a uniform system for the whole State.—EDITOR.

WAKE FOREST, May 10, '88.

While our delegates go untrammelled to our convention, yet we cannot count I think beyond a doubt, out of the ten delegates which we are entitled to, seven for Alexander and three for Fowle. The Fowle element was well represented, I think, and while our meeting was harmonious throughout, Alexander is our choice. Allow me, Mr. Editor, to say, while it is fair for us to have our farmer Governor, don't let us have our minds diverted from the proper channel. Governors do not make our laws, and it is only intended that they should have them executed. It is our imperative duty to see that our legislators are men who are friendly to agriculture and who will defend our rights and make laws by which we, as a class, can receive some benefit. We do not want every thing, but there are some things which we demand, and as we have the voting strength, we are going to have. Let us remember, that to receive any recognition and independence, is to begin at home and attend our primary meetings. If we send the right kind of men to our convention and stand on our ground, it will not be a hard matter to nominate the right kind of candidate, and when this is accomplished we can, we must, and we will elect him. This applies with force to candidates for the State Legislature, and we should be careful as to who we nominate.

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